

*Artists*

DUXBURY CLIPPER

## ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION IS DEDICATED TO CAPT. BITTINGER

Thursday, July 29, 1965

The 1965 Annual Arts and Crafts Exhibition is dedicated to Captain Charles Bittinger, USNR (Ret.) a founder and past president of the Duxbury Art Association.

Captain Bittinger enrolled in the class of 1901 at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Three years later in 1900 he went to Paris to study painting. In 1902, he was admitted to the Ecole des Beaux Arts, an accomplishment achieved by only a few foreigners. In Paris, Captain Bittinger met and married Edith Gay who was studying to be a singer. In 1907, the Bittingers returned to the U.S. when his reputation as a painter earned him election in the National Academy of Design in 1912 as an associate member and in 1937 as Academician.

In World War I, although overage for the draft, Capt. Bittinger joined the Navy as a seaman. His exceptional talents were put to good use as he was assigned to the new and experimental endeavor of camouflage. His contributions soon earned him a commission and he served between the wars as a consultant to the Navy. In World War II, he again served his country and rose to the rank of Captain.

In 1914, the Bittingers came to Duxbury and bought the early 19th century Bradford home on Tremont St. Capt. Bittinger became active in bringing together a few dedicated artists and those interested in the arts. A meeting was held at his house attended by Margaret Brown, Mrs. Charles Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Winthrop Coffin, Esther and Marjorie Conant (now Mrs. Harold Bush-Brown) and Waldo Kennard. It was decided to have an exhibition. Charles Bittinger was elected chairman. The first arts and crafts exhibition was held in the summer of 1917 at Partridge Academy. Thus was born the Duxbury Art Association. Except for interruptions by wars, the exhibition has been held annually ever since.

Capt. Bittinger, while well-known for his portraits, is best known for his paintings of interior scenes. His paintings are owned by many museums. Perhaps his most famous work is "Interior of Boston Athenaeum" owned by the Metropolitan Museum in New York. This painting hangs in the Boston Athenaeum on loan. Several paintings from Capt. Bittinger's private collection will be shown at the 1965 Arts and Crafts Exhibition beginning Monday, Aug. 9, at the Old Town Hall.



Captain Bittinger holding the cup given to him in appreciation for his services with the Association as founder and past president.